

## Volksschule Enrollment (1911-1941)

### Abstract

After the end of the First World War, the school system in the Weimar Republic was comprehensively reformed. With the “Weimar School Compromise” in 1919 and the Primary School Act of 1920, a school system consisting of a common four-year elementary school and a subsequent division into a three-tier school system was introduced. The *Volksschule* was the lowest tier and had the shortest compulsory schooling period of at least eight years according to the Weimar Constitution (Art. 145). These statistics show the development of school, class, student and teacher numbers at *Volksschulen* from 1911 to 1941. During this period, the number of students fell from just under 10.3 million to 7.7 million. However, the number of teachers at this school type increased during the same period. This led to smaller classes and a lower number of students per teacher.

### Source

#### Elementary School Enrollment

Year	Schools <sup>a)</sup>	Classes	Teachers	Students	Students per Class	Students per Teacher	Students per 100 Residents <sup>b)</sup>
1911	61,557	--	147,485	10,309,949	--	70	16
1921/22	52,763	207,185	195,946	8,894,486	42.9	45.4	14
1926/27	52,825	188,708	186,853	6,661,794	35.3	36.7	11
1931/32	52,961	195,456	190,281	7,590,073	38.8	39.9	12
1938 <sup>c)</sup>	51,118	188,310	179,260	7,596,437	40.3	42.4	11
1941 <sup>d)</sup>	50,537	183,839	180,501	7,724,137	42	42.8	11

(a) Public elementary schools.

(b) Population of the Reich at the midpoint of the (first) year.

(c) Based on the borders as of December 31, 1931.

(d) Reich territory in 1937 plus the district of Kattowitz. Schools in the Saar region have only been partially documented.

Source of original German text: *Sozialgeschichtliches Arbeitsbuch*, Volume III, *Materialien zur Statistik des Deutschen Reiches 1914–1945*, edited by Dietmar Petzina, Werner Abelshauser, and Anselm Faust. Munich: Verlag C.H. Beck, 1978, p. 165.

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